



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: May 12, 2010

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Sheriff Shares Concerns Regarding the Potential Shift of Inmates Housed at Arizona DOC Back to County Jail

Flagstaff, AZ – In the event that Proposition 100 (1% State Sales Tax) fails to pass on May 18th, officials of the Arizona Department of Corrections must transfer DOC inmates with one year or less remaining on their sentences back to their counties of origin according to a recent State Legislative action. This represents an approximate increase of 284 inmates that would return to the Coconino County Detention Facility. In addition, future offenders that are sentenced to prison for a term of one year or less will serve their time in county detention facilities rather than transferring to state prison. This change in policy represents an increase of approximately 70 additional inmates.

The maximum occupancy of the Coconino County Detention Facility is 596 inmates and currently the approximate daily average population is 465. Classification is a risk management tool used by County Detention Officers to assess the specific needs and potential threats posed by each inmate and place them throughout the facility to promote the safety of staff and the entire inmate population. In order to use this tool the inmate population must be 20 % less than the maximum capacity of 596. The transfer of many inmates with histories of violent behavior puts the classification system at risk.

Currently the Coconino County Detention Facility rents beds to other agencies that do not have the capacity to house their entire inmate population. The approximate daily inmate population for rental beds is between 90 and 100. In the event the transfer of DOC inmates occurs, the County Detention facility would no longer have the capacity to rent beds to other agencies representing an annual revenue loss of over \$2 million. Valuable options such as the male and female Exodus In-Custody Substance Abuse Treatment Programs would be in jeopardy of cancellation. In addition to significant revenue loss, the inmates transferred from DOC will represent additional costs associated with staffing, housing and medical treatment.